

# WYOMINGITES ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

*Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Wyomingites. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Wyoming. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Wyoming.*

## **INCOME: WYOMINGITES ARE BARELY EARNING MORE TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO**

- In 2000, the median income in Wyoming was \$44,277.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, the median income in Wyoming was \$45,817, a modest increase of 3.5 percent.<sup>2</sup>

## **HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN WYOMING HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS**

- In 2000, Wyoming had 76,000 adults without insurance (15.7 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2005, Wyoming had 82,000 adults without insurance (16.1 percent).<sup>4</sup>
- Wyoming had 6,120 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.<sup>5</sup>

## **EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN WYOMING**

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Wyoming was \$7,017.<sup>6</sup> In 2005, it was \$8,514, a 21 percent increase.<sup>7</sup>
- Number of Wyomingites affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 7,551<sup>8</sup>
- Number of Wyomingites affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 5,993<sup>9</sup>

## **GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR WYOMING RESIDENTS**

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Wyoming was \$1.349 a gallon.<sup>10</sup>
- Today the average cost of gas in Wyoming is \$2.630 a gallon.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Wyoming was \$2,399.<sup>12</sup>
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Wyoming is \$4,678, \$2,278 (95 percent) more than it was in 2001.<sup>13</sup>

## **SOCIAL SECURITY: WYOMINGITES DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Wyoming – 82,510<sup>14</sup>
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Wyoming – \$884<sup>15</sup>

## **IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: WYOMINGITES ON THE FRONT LINES**

- Number of Wyomingites killed in Iraq – 7<sup>16</sup>
- Number of Wyomingites wounded in Iraq – 51<sup>17</sup>
- Number of Wyomingites killed in Afghanistan – 2<sup>18</sup>
- Number of Veterans in Wyoming – 54,941<sup>19</sup>

## **REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING WYOMING'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS**

- Only 62 estates in Wyoming paid an Estate Tax in 2004.<sup>20</sup>
- Only 12 estates in Wyoming will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.<sup>21</sup>
- In contrast, 17,000 workers in Wyoming would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.<sup>22</sup>

## **CRIME: FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING DISAPPEARING**

- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2000 – 888,512<sup>23</sup>
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – 246,807<sup>24</sup>

## **TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST WYOMINGITES**

**The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Wyomingites.**

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Wyoming residents each received an average of \$ 3,031 in tax cuts, while middle class Wyoming residents received only \$388.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Wyoming residents will receive an average of \$67,628 in tax cuts, while middle class Wyoming residents will only receive \$772.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Wyoming residents will each receive an average of \$123,888 in tax cuts, while middle class Wyoming residents will only receive \$911.<sup>27</sup>

**The richest Wyomingites receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.**

- In 2001, the richest Wyomingites received 6.8 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 17.2 percent of the tax cut.<sup>28</sup>
- But, in 2006, the richest Wyomingites will get 36.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 8.2 percent of the tax cut.<sup>29</sup>
- And, in 2010, the richest Wyomingites will get 52.9 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 7.6 percent of the tax cut.<sup>30</sup>

### **Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Wyomingites.**

- In 2010, the richest Wyomingites will receive an average of \$29,938 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Wyomingites will be getting over 55.3 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.<sup>31</sup>
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Wyomingites will receive an average of \$103 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 3.7 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.<sup>32</sup>

### **SOURCES**

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